

# Hook, Line and Sinker

With Tony Hooker

An early deadline, coupled with covering two tournaments, has led to my decision to run a "best of" column this week. I chose one that is close to my heart. I'll be back with my regular ramblings in the 01/09 edition.---Tony

Before home games, at the stadium that bears his name, Nile Kinnick's 1939 Heisman Trophy acceptance speech is read to an enraptured audience.

"I would like, if I may, to make a comment which I think is appropriate at this time. I thank God that I was born to the gridiron of the middle west and not to the battlefields of Europe. I can speak confidently and positively that the football players of this country would rather fight for the Heisman trophy than for the Croix de Guerre."

For Kinnick, who was tragically killed during a training flight during World War II, and for thousands of other athletes who have made the supreme sacrifice in defense of our country, no words ring

truer.

No one wants to go to war, yet millions have. To date, somewhere in the neighborhood of 1.3 million have found their final resting place, and nearly 3 million Americans have been wounded.

I can state with certainty that those folks would have much rather been roaming the gridiron, or shooting baskets or hitting home runs than to be doing what they were doing, but they answered when called.

Locally, according to the Douglas County Archive, 13 Villa Grove residents gave their lives in World War II, including John Sidell, who died aboard the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor. World War I claimed one VG casualty, Walter Jones, for whom the VFW post in town is named.

Perhaps the most famous former athlete to die in service to his country was Pat Tillman. Pat, who played college ball at Arizona State before becoming a defensive back for the Arizona Cardinals, was deeply moved by the events of 9/11. So much

so that he and his brother Kevin, who gave up a career in professional baseball to do so, enlisted in the United States Army in May of 2002, passing on a contract that was said to be worth 3.6 million dollars to do so. After attending basic training, the Tillman brothers were deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom before completing Ranger training on November 28, 2003.

Just 5 months later, Pat Tillman would be killed while conducting Operations in Afghanistan, becoming the first NFL player to die in the line of duty since Bob Kalsu was killed in Vietnam in 1970.

This Veteran's Day, I've been reminded once again of the tremendous privilege we Americans are afforded by the actions of the military. It's a privilege to get to play sports. It's a privilege to get to work out and listen to Tom Petty and write newspaper articles, and those privileges have been written in the blood and sacrifice of our Armed Forces. We should never forget. I know I won't.

# WEEKLY SPORTS WRAP-UP

## Boys' Basketball

Villa Grove Heritage won their first four games of the BSN holiday tournament, and will play Milford for the championship. Unfortunately an early press time due to the Holidays will delay coverage, so be sure to pick up a copy of the January 9th copy of the VG News and/or the Southern Champaign County Today for complete coverage.

## Corral Buffaloes

Georgetown Ridgefarm overcame an early 12-0 deficit to tie the contest at 14 after one quarter, but the Hawks steadily pulled away from there to cruise to a 64-39 win in their tourney opener. Will Wilson netted 17 points, Jared Stevens netted 14, and Jake Eversole added 10 in the win.

## Out-joust Knights

The VGH press forced numerous Blue Ridge turnovers in racing out to a 22-5 first quarter lead, and the Hawks never looked back, cruising to a 55-42 win in their second game of the tourney. Jared Stevens netted 16 points, including hitting six straight free throws in the final quarter to lead the way. Will Wilson netted 15 points and Evan Wilson added 10 for Villa Grove Heritage.

## Redcoat Minutemen

The Hawks raced out to a 24-9 advantage at the end of the first quarter, and kept the pressure up for the next two quarters as they defeated Lexington 56-43. The Hawks reserves were outscored 16-8 in the final quarter to make the margin closer than the actual game results. A balanced VGH attack was led by Evan Wilson's 13 points. Bryce Dalle netted 11, Jared Stevens and Will Wilson each tallied 9, and Jake Eversole hit for seven points in the win.

## Weather Storm

Will Wilson netted 16 points, Jared Stevens added 15, and Jake Eversole had 10 points as the Hawks slowly pulled away to a 53-38 win over Salt Fork in their fourth tourney contest.

## Girls' Basketball

The Girls played their way into the third place contest of the Bismarck Girls' Holiday tourney. Coverage of the third place game will be featured in the January 9th issue of the VG News and Southern Champaign County Today.

## Fall to Storm

VGH took an eleven point lead early in the fourth quarter of their 42-39 loss to Salt Fork, but an injury to defensive stopper Jerdyn Ray, and a disqualification for fouls to Kyleigh Block thwarted the Devils' efforts. Block had 13 points before exiting the contest, and fellow sophomore Samantha Campbell netted 12 to lead the way. Aliya

Holloman came off the bench to drop

10 points, and Ray, who was able to return to action late, added 4.

## Cage Wildcats

Holloman netted 20 points, and Campbell added 19 as the Blue Devils defeated South Vermillion, IN 59-45 in the late night contest.

## Fall to Hosts

The host Blue Devils proved to be too much for the visiting VGH quintet winning 51-33. Holloman had nine points to lead VGH

## Ground Cardinals

The Blue Devils finished out pool play with a strong 55-13 win over Washington Catholic. Block and Holloman each tallied 19 points for the winners. VGH will take on North Vermillion for third place on December 29.

# Car Snow Survival Tips

Every year, winter throws out more than a few weather and travel-related situations. Freezing rain, blinding snow and icy roadways can make even short drives across town hazardous. A traffic accident, a police matter or snow emergency may hold you up for hours; you have to prepare for the unexpected, especially in the Midwest. When winter storms happen, first-responder crews and tow-trucks will be spread thin as they deal with others.

## KEEP BASICS INSIDE THE CAR

Make a kit in a duffel bag or backpack to keep everything in one place and easy to find.

- Snacks and bottled water: Go for those that are easy to pack and contain protein and simple carbs for quick energy and nourishment, such as nuts, raisins and mini candy bars.
- Stay-warm gear: Stash a few extra hats, gloves, scarves and a blanket or two.
- Emergency supplies: Pack a first-aid kit that includes essential medications, a whistle, a battery-operated or hand-crank radio and a lightweight flashlight (reverse batteries' placement inside flashlights to keep them from accidentally turning on and burning out when not in use).

## STORE SMALL ESSENTIALS IN THE GLOVE BOX

For shorter and less dire emergencies, you'll appreciate having a few things within easy reach.

- Cellphone chargers: Keep a standard one that plugs into your car's charging port, but also invest in one with its own stored charge that can give your phone an emergency boost.

- Emergency contact card: As a backup, write a card with phone numbers for kids' schools, doctors, tow services, relatives and other key numbers you typically store on your cell phone.
- A road map because people rely heavily on a phone or car's GPS that may not work.

- Extra cash: Go for small bills. Power outages mean cash registers and credit card machines won't be working, so having small bills lets you buy items without overpaying.

## STOW BIG STUFF IN THE TRUNK

If you get stuck in the snow, having a few larger items on hand can help.

- Snow-removal tools: A small shovel with a folding or telescoping handle is compact and useful. An extra ice scraper and brush may also come in handy. Emergency flares.

- Rock salt or sand: A bag of either provides traction in case you your wheels are

spinning.

- Windshield fluid: It's smart to top off your car's fluid before longer trips, and keep extras.
- Towels: A large beach towel or two lets you dry off after digging in the snow.

## PACK FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

If you frequently travel with kids, elderly or others with special needs, be sure to think ahead to what could be useful. For example, extra baby formula or food, diapers and a few additional kids' games, books and activities can make a traffic standstill more pleasant for everyone.

**DEADLINES Classified Deadlines-Friday @ 2pm News-Friday @ 2pm Ads-Friday @ 2pm**



Connie and Gilbert in their front yard at EDP Renewables' Jericho Rise Wind Farm

EDP Renewables' wind farms bring economic benefits to communities throughout America.

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-Connie & Gilbert M.

Homeowners at EDP Renewables' Jericho Rise Wind Farm constructed in 2016

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**2018-19 VILLA GROVE/HERITAGE HAWKS**

BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE	record
Nov 19-24 @CGB tourney (3rd)	3-1
Nov 27 @ Uni High	W 70-32 4-1
Nov 30 @ Schlarman	W 62-38 5-1
Dec 04 Westville	W 67-37 6-1
Dec 08 @ Sullivan OV	W 67-30 7-1
Dec 11 Tuscola	L 48-52 7-2
Dec 14 @ Arthur OC	W 74-60 8-2
Dec 18 @ STM	L 55-76 8-3
Dec 27-29 BSN Tourney	
Jan 04 LSA	
Jan 08 @ SJO	
Jan 11 Cerro Gordo (in VG)	
Jan 12 @ Judah Christian	
Jan 15 Chrisman	
Jan 19-26 @ LOVC Tourney (Cumberland)	
Feb 01 @ Oblong	
Feb 05 Tri-County	
Feb 08 Hut-Pal	
Feb 09 Arcola	
Feb 12 @ Cumberland	
Feb 15 Martinsville	
Feb 18-22 @ IHSA regionals	

HEAD COACH Corey White

**2018-19 VILLA GROVE/HERITAGE Blue Devils**

GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE	record
Nov 11-16 @Falcon/Bunny Classic (2nd)	3-1
Nov 20 Tuscola	L 35-39 3-2
Nov 26 @ Westville	W 62-36 4-2
Nov 27 Salt Fork	W 55-49 5-2
Nov 29 Uni High	W 60-32 6-2
Dec 03 @ Judah	W 59-45 7-2
Dec 05 ALAH	W 58-47 8-2
Dec 11 @ Unity	W 47-39 9-2
Dec 13 Cerro Gordo	W 65-41 10-2
Dec 27-29 @ Bismarck tourney	
Jan 03 Arcola (in Broadlands)	
Jan 08 @ Chrisman	
Jan 10 @ Hut-Pal	
Jan 12-19 @ LOVC tourney (Martinsville)	
Jan 21 @ Cumberland	
Jan 22 @ GRF	
Jan 24 Oblong	
Jan 28 Tri County (sr night)	
Jan 31 @ Martinsville	
Feb 04-08 @ IHSA Regional	

HEAD COACH Dan Sappenfield

**2018-19 Villa Grove Devilettes Schedule**

Dec 15 Villa Grove Competition	1st in IDTA
Jan 05 Charleston Competition	
Jan 12 Clinton Competition	
Jan 19 IHSA Sectionals TBD	
Jan 25-26 IHSA State Finals (must qualify)	
Feb 02 Tuscola Competition	
Feb 09 IDTA State Finals (must qualify)	

HEAD COACH Sarah Bouton



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